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Old Walcha Hospital site haunted by inaction

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall is pressuring the State Government to act decisively and resolve a 16-year battle over the abandoned and derelict Old Walcha Hospital site.

Mr Marshall was joined by Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes and Acting General Manager Phil Hood at the old hospital recently to see firsthand the abysmal state of the buildings.

"Since the hospital was decommissioned more than 15 years ago, it has been the site of vandals, trespassers and squatters, with local police making daily scheduled visits," Mr Marshall said.

"The old hospital was closed in June 2007 when a new modern and purpose-built Multi Purpose Service opened at a new location in town.

"It has since become the focus of a longstanding Local Aboriginal Land Claim, which remains undetermined.

"There is also a significant amount of disturbed asbestos on the site."

Mr Marshall said the old hospital sits on a hill overlooking Walcha and was a focal point for much of the town as well as prime real estate.

"The abandoned buildings today only seem to have one use, as a thrill-seeking adventure for youngsters who get their kicks out of hits on social media," Mr Marshall said.

"I have made representations to the



Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes, left, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall and Acting General Manager Phil Hood outside the abandoned and derelict Old Walcha Hospital, demanding State Government take action to clean up the site after 16 years.

Minister for Health Ryan Park on behalf of the Mayor and the Walcha community to resolve this as a matter of urgency and get the whole site cleaned up so it can be used for something positive.

"Whether this is social housing, an aged care facility or to be developed as residential properties, the community just want this eyesore removed.

"This is a high priority for the Walcha community and as their newly-minted MP, following an electoral redistribution in March, I am determined help to find a solution.

"I hope the Minister will intervene and resolve this 16-year battle for the people of Walcha."

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The last week of weather has once again been very nice and the sun has been shining like it is almost spring. The wattles are starting to flower on the Moonbi ranges, and I have noticed the trees at home are beginning to bud up like spring isn't too far away. I don't think July has been cold, as I recall being outside without a jumper more often than on, and the week ahead looks fine with a potential shower over the weekend.

Indonesia has suspended live cattle imports from Australia after they detected a small number of Australian cattle had Lumpy skin disease. The Indonesian Government has paused imports from four Australian pre-export facilities pending further testing of animals. Lumpy skin disease is highly infectious and has been spreading through Indonesia since March 2022, while Australia has never had a positive test to this day and remains free. Authorities are stating the positive tests have come from cattle that have spent some time in Indonesia already and further testing should clear the suspension. Since the detection of Lumpy skin disease in Indonesia, Australia has continued further surveillance and testing across the northern cattle industry and to this day remains disease free.

Bull sales are well under way and the confidence in the beef industry is still extremely high when a yearling Angus bull last week at Auction smashed the Australian all breeds price selling for \$360,000. The majority of the bull sales are averaging from \$9,000 – 13,000 which seems to be what producers are happy to pay for a new bull after the recent drop in the beef market. Fat bulls seem to be still making good money and offer good change over value as investing in new genetics is a whole lot cheaper than twelve months ago. Remember we have some of the industry top seedstock producers on our doorstep who offer industry leading genetics and cattle that are bred for our conditions. Keep an eye out for your bull stud of choice's sale day.

The sheep and lamb industry cannot take a trick now as prices continue to slide and what seems to be a bottle neck of supply and less demand. It's only been a month and both the lamb and mutton hook prices have dropped over a dollar per kilo while the wool job has also taken a turn for the worse. Historically late winter is when we would see a kick in the kill market due to lower supply, but it's far from what we would normally expect. The sheep industry is really starting to buckle under the pressure of supply and the re-stocker market is even harder to comprehend. A report on the *ABC Country Hour* stated light merino restocking lambs made from \$5 – \$12 per head at a saleyard on Monday, which means they basically gave them away. I don't think things are that hard, it's just that there are so many negatives around the sheep and lamb industry. It's very hard to make decisions around the sheep and lamb market when one of the two major processors who compete on all kill lambs and mutton has only just announced they will be shut for the month of September for maintenance. Just more added pressure to our markets that don't have enough competition due to lack of kill space when compared to the south. Let's hope that processors can pass these low values onto consumers so they can get some much-needed relief from the price of living. Like, come on – it still looks too dear on the supermarket shelf and at these kill prices someone is gauging the consumer.

Foxes still seem to be in huge numbers around the district even after recent baiting programs. I think it's vital to bait for foxes even if you're a cattle producer as I've seen first-hand what a fox can do to a calving cow, especially one that is having trouble. I know it's essential to bait if you're a sheep producer, but regardless I think we all need to do more in terms of fox control.

Tamworth yarded 1,120 head of cattle on Monday with lightweight steers selling to firm while heifers sold to cheaper trends. Yearling heifers topped at 310c/kg to feed while feeder steers made to 344c/kg for 441kg. Heavy kill steers sold to 294c/kg for 660kg while cows remained firm selling to a top of 225c/kg. The cow market in the south kicked yesterday with heavy cows selling to a top of 278c/kg.

July was all about sport at Walcha Central

Cross Country

While their friends were sitting by the fire during the school holidays, five Walcha Central School runners were training up and down hills in preparation for the CHS Secondary Cross Country Championships, which were held at Sydney Motorsport Park on 21 July.

The five athletes were representing the North West region and competed against the best runners from schools throughout NSW.

They achieved great results with some outstanding times. If you consider how many students there are living in NSW, around 40,000 in each age, these standings are amazing. Congratulations on such outstanding results.

Rain Pritchard (15 years 4km)	63rd	(20:21.30)
Ivy Pritchard (16 years 4km)	22nd	(18:00.30)
Charlotte Mooney (17+ years 4km)	23rd	(18:26.40)
Kirra-Lee Murphy (17+ years 4km)	53rd	(20:39.00)
Thomas Bullen (17+ years 6km)	72nd	(28:34.50)



Thomas Bullen, Charlotte Mooney, Ivy Pritchard, Rain Pritchard and Kirra-Lee Murphy

Central Schools Netball

Walcha Central School secondary girls attended the annual Northern carnival in Inverell last week.

The U16's (pictured right) won all four of their games and the Open's team (pictured far right) won three of their five games. Their sportsmanship and skills were exceptional, performing at a very high standard. They also looked the part in their new netball singlets. Well done girls!



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Two decades on the Hospital Auxiliary



Walcha Hospital Auxiliary President Marg Cross and Secretary Vicki McIvor congratulate Peter McIvor on his 20 years of service to the organisation.

President of Walcha Hospital Auxiliary, Marg Cross was thrilled to present Peter McIvor with a 20 year service badge at their recent AGM. "We really appreciate all the help Peter gives us," she commented.

It was also with sadness though that the Auxiliary are losing one of their long-standing members, Phillipa Lawrence. Phillipa has served an amazing 35 years on the Auxiliary. "We wish her well for her future endeavours," Marg said.

In her President's report, Marg reported on the busy year that the Auxiliary has had. We held street stalls, catered for Walcha Historical Society AGM, bull sales, ram sales, garage sales, clearance sale, manned the gates for the Rodeo and the Vintage Truck and Machinery Show, held a very successful High Tea in Marg and John Cross's garden, and a Melbourne Cup luncheon along with several other small catering jobs.

The Auxiliary has made numerous donations to the Walcha Hospital this year, including many baby bundles for newborns which are given out through Community Health, emergency toilet bags, a ring cutter for those who have hand injuries, an Infant hearing testing machine for Community Health, magazines for the patients and residents and also Christmas gifts. Two members attended State Conference in Sydney last October and we have had several visits to other Hospital Auxiliaries in our region.

Marg remains as President, Linda Cross 1st Vice President, Sally-Ann Hoy 2nd Vice President and Vic McIvor as Secretary, Pam Clare Assistant Secretary and Marie Spink as the Treasurer.

Marg thanked Marie Spink for her Treasurers work, Vic as Secretary and all members for their ongoing support throughout the year and she especially thanked members of the community for their wonderful support to our Auxiliary and the door is always open to new members.

Put a bad night's sleep to bed

As part of our continued focus on optimising health outcomes for our community, Kings Pharmacy provides a health service in the pharmacy, focusing on sleep health management.

As part of this service, customers can make appointments with our pharmacist Kelly who will discuss current sleep habits, including reviewing medication use as well as lifestyle factors and sleep hygiene. Kelly will then develop a tailored treatment plan collaboratively with each customer to help manage sleep issues. If required, our pharmacy will also provide a referral to a GP or other health professional.

If this is a service you would like to utilise, please do not hesitate to reach out by call the Pharmacy for an appointment.

Pharmacy Sleep Services are offering 50 % off At Home Sleep Studies for the diagnosis of Sleep Apnoea during the month of August. If you have any questions regarding this service or any of our other health services please contact the pharmacy team.



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Mayoral Column

VALE CLR GREG SCHAEFER

By now I believe the whole community would be aware of the passing of Clr Greg Schaefer. Too many times we don't realise the worth and contribution of people until we reflect on it. Greg was happy being a Chief or an Indian, whatever was required to get the job done. He leaves a hole in both Council and the community which seems harder to fill these days.

Greg's funeral will be held on 11 August at 11am at St Paul's Presbyterian Church Walcha.

UNDER GROUND LINES

The impression I get from the many conversations I have is that a lot of our community is tiring of the constant renewables discussions. Despite this your Council continues to navigate the way forward and to advocate on behalf of the community in order shape the outcome of any successful projects in our LGA. With this in mind I will continue to give transparency through this column of what we are doing.

Last Thursday Interim GM Phil Hood and myself attended a Senate Inquiry into placing large transmission lines underground. This was instigated by a Bill put forward by Adam Marshall and will report back within a month. Walcha was included with both Uralla and Armidale Councils and I believe the Senators from the LNP, Labor and Cross Benches were interested in the impact of both transmission and renewable projects and their impacts both financially and socially on communities. One strong and recurring theme in most meetings we have with any group is that Walcha is becoming known State wide for the disruption being caused to our small community.

Showing what I believe is a severe lack of understanding of community engagement is that at no stage has there been any flow of information to the public about the pros and cons of the different types of transmission infrastructure. Information is key to good decisions. My closing remark to the Inquiry was that we need to change the idea that giving information constitutes engagement, but this is what I feel is constantly happening.

This week we also meet with our local engagement officer from EnCo, both individually and again later in the week with CoREM. Through Country Mayors we will have an audience with the State Energy Minister the Honourable Penny Sharpe. We still await a direct meeting with her.

THE OLD HOSPITAL

You may have noticed that the derelict State Government asset, our once proud hospital, is in the news again. With a change of State Government and a new State Member that is showing interest in a solution, I wrote



to the Health and Housing Ministers to try and speed up an outcome. Everyone seems to want to divest themselves of this building, but no one with the power will step up. It's a hot potato that keeps getting passed around. The condition of this facility has deteriorated to a disgrace and if it belonged to anyone else, with its potential for contamination, it would probably be the government itself that enforced its rehabilitation.

It's now been sixteen years and I believe we are behind where we started. I saw the Health Minister comment on the NBN News the other night in relation to it and his response did not exactly inspire me.

Adam Marshall is on leave for a couple of weeks but when he returns the Minister is happy to meet with him. I will also look into a petition to be tabled in Parliament if this is Adam's advice. I don't think we will get the 10,000 signatures required for it to be automatically read but at 500 it can be tabled. It's a bit more complicated than one might think but we can get advice on how that works.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

- Our Off Creek Storage continues to fill, albeit at a slower rate due to a temporary pumping arrangement, but it is filling and securing our future day by day with dry times predicted. Tenders for necessary pump station upgrades are being advertised now after a frustratingly long period in design.
- At our last meeting the first, revised concept designs for the two sections of Derby Street were tabled. Well done to our team for the excellent outcome (which will be worth the wait).
- Also tabled was the concept design for the footpath along Darjeeling Road to link the John Oxley Sportsground footpath back to the upgraded Lions Park.
- Council is in the process of tendering for the resheeting of approximately 55kms of local roads. Addressing critical needs for both safety and accessibility is the focus of this spend and while not every unsealed road will get improvement this time, an almost \$1.7M in gravel resheeting investment (thanks to grant funding boosts) will be a welcome shot in the arm for our local road network.
- Coupled with this is the recently purchased Jetpatcher that you will see out and about on sealed roads. This machine will patch holes but also seal larger sections of road rehabilitation.
- If you are traveling east on the Oxley Hwy over the next few months check for road closures that may impact your travels. They are manageable but better to understand before leaving.



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Free Men's Health checks

Don't hesitate to give 10 minutes of your busy day to get free basic health screening undertaken next week by Registered Nurse Leanne Garvey. Literally, it could save your life.

The "mherv" project is organised by Rotary and over the past five years it is estimated that over 450 lives have been saved because of these free basic health checks.

Leanne will be in Walcha next week and is happy to take your blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar levels; and have a general quick chat about your health.

"mherv" sees around 3,500 patients each year and it is no surprise how many males have undetected symptoms. Around 40% require following up with a GP.

Project leader Graeme Hooper says, "While men are our key target as we don't want them dropping dead in the paddock, ladies are also welcome."

Rotary kindly acknowledges the support of the Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution (RFBI) and Electrodry in making this free service possible.

"mherv" is in town as follows:

Date: Friday 11 August 2023 11:00am to 3:30pm
Saturday 12 August 2023 9:30am to 12:30pm

Location: in front of New England Motel, 31w Fitzroy St, Walcha

Cost: Free

Further information is available on our website: www.mherv.com.au

Celebrating 100 days of school

Students in Kindergarten at Walcha Central School celebrated their 100th day of School last Wednesday.

All of the students in Kindy were encouraged to dress like they were 100 years old. The students thoroughly enjoyed completing activities based around the number 100 or being 100 years old. These included: using apps to age their faces, designing their own \$100 note and sharing what they'd buy with \$100 and thinking about something they would like to have 100 of.



Iyla, Riley E, Billy and Bronte showing their age!



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- ✦ To Diana Lisle and the wonderful volunteers for the excellent job they did rose pruning at Apsley Riverview and for their great advice with the garden renovation. Thank you.
- ✦ To Walcha Central Livestock team students for the great job they did at the Tummel Bull Sale. Such a respectful group, who take hold of any opportunity to try something new.
- ✦ To Brett Dwyer from Naturally Anatomic for providing excellent remedial massage in Walcha.
- ✦ To the increases in the basic cost of living. Keep an eye on your mates and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must be accompanied by your name and contact details. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.

Let's Hang it Art competition finalists

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

Last Friday evening some of the staff members at St Patrick's School went to the New England Regional Art Museum to support both Mackenzie G's and Mackenzie L's entries at the 2023 UNESAP Let's Hang It Competition for the Finalists Exhibition Opening and Award Ceremony.

Both girls' entries were selected among the finalists in the Infants Section of this competition and their achievements were noted as each participant received an award for making the finals as well as their artworks being part of this exhibition which is open to the public until 13 August.

Congratulations to Mackenzie L, as her exhibit was placed second overall in her division. She should be very proud of this achievement. Who knows, we may have our next Picasso here at St Patrick's.



Mackenzie L (left) and Mackenzie G with their entries

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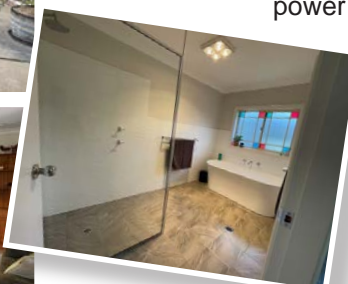
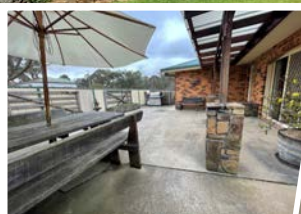
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RUGBY REPORT WALCHA V QUIRINDI

By Eric the Spider

Walcha took on Quirindi this weekend in front of an excellent Ladies Day crowd in a must win match as they are fighting to remain in the Top 4. The game started fast and physical with both teams up for the battle in attack and defence. Walcha managed to get into good attacking positions in the early exchanges through some strong running from Joel "joog baby" Ballon, but failed to convert these opportunities into points as Quirindi absorbed the pressure. Excellent organisation and defence in the early stages of the match from Josh "Mr Mol" Maloney kept the Quirindi attack at bay, continuously repelling their attacking raids. As both teams settled in it was Quirindi who had the better of possession and field position, wearing the Walcha Rams defence away. The Rams finally cracked after defending their line for a long period, Quirindi scoring the first try. The continuous defence took its toll as Quirindi managed to run in two more tries in the 10 minute period with Walcha beginning to slip off crucial 1-on-1 tackles allowing Quirindi to run. Late in the first half Walcha managed to wrestle the momentum back, putting together a number of well worked phases, holding onto the ball and gaining good ground. Ritchie "the Wombat" Hunt was up to his old tricks, carrying well through contact giving the Rams good front foot ball, which they used to surge towards the Quirindi try-line. A strong run from Sione "big ulu" Kamoto close to the ruck saw him dispose of a couple would be defenders and wrestle his way over the try line for Walcha's first try. The Rams went into the halftime break with a mountain of work to do trailing Quirindi. Walcha 5 Quirindi 33.

The Walcha Rams needed a big second half to attempt to put pressure back onto Quirindi. Some good running early in the half from Eddy "The emu" Cordingley put Walcha in good position as they looked to chip away at the lead. Walcha's ball handling and organisation in attack was much better, holding onto the ball well and forcing Quirindi to make a number of tackles. Some well worked phases close to the Quirindi line allowed for Wally "the slippery somerton sheep breeder" Davidson to slice through the defence scoring for Walcha off the back of some

excellent work from the forwards. This try lifted the Walcha Rams as they began to fight their way back into the match. Attacking from deep in their own end Walcha made another break racing up the right hand touch line only to be dragged down 20 metres out. The Rams spread the ball wide to the opposite wing showing great hands and game awareness, finding Sam "just carry" Lomax who charged his way over in the can van corner to give the Rams another excellent try. With all the momentum with Walcha they again found themselves deep inside the Quirindi half, orchestrating another attack on their line. A superbly worked rolling maul from the forwards saw Henry "big country" Leslie dive over the line, putting Walcha back into the contest. Matty "il Tis" Tisdell had a great game, making a number of important tackles. Patty "the ugly keen" Keen was menacing in attack, continuously breaking tackles and creating opportunities. Harry "Kingswood" King had his best game for Walcha, tackling everything in front of him. In the end the Rams were unable to claw back the first half lead, but showed great heart not giving up until the end. The Walcha Rams should be proud of how their second half. Walcha 29 – Quirindi 41.

A huge thank you from the ladies to everyone who came out to support the Rams and help raise money for Ladies Day.

3 Harry King (Players player), 2 Joel Ballon, 1 Eddy Cordingley, Patty Keen.

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what's the goss

with AJ Cross

What a terrible shock to hear Walcha Councillor Greg Schaefer sadly left this world last week at the much too young age of 64 years. 'Shaef' was a stalwart of the Walcha Rugby Club, not only as a player and coach with the Rams, but also a long time supporter. 'Shaef' will be farewelled on Friday 11 August at the Presbyterian Church from 11.00am. Condolences to all 'Shaefs' family members and his many friends. May Greg Schaefer Rest In Peace.

What a performance by new Walcha Golf Club member Darren Bird when he played his first competition game at the club last Sunday. 'Dazza' carded a Par event score at +6 to win by the length of the straight but one thing the 'Molleydooker' won't be doing anytime soon is be playing off his Golf Australia Handicap of 32 because he lost 10 shots last weekend and is now off 22.

Congratulations to Walcha Central School athlete Olivia McKenna on being selected in the North West team to compete in Sydney a few months down the track. Olivia won a blue ribbon in the shot putt and also competed in the discus in the trial in Tamworth last weekend. Good on ya Liv – all the best of luck when you head to the 'Big Smoke'.

Tennis Club member Shelley Marchant was celebrating her birthday so fellow member Jenny Hoy cooked a cake for the occasion to be enjoyed at the 'Warren Park' luncheon. Jenny had baked a layer cake but was a bit concerned about over cooking the bottom layer which became more of a worry when she had trouble cutting the cake. On investigation it wasn't the crispness of the bottom layer that was the problem, it was more so that Jenny hadn't removed the baking paper from the bottom side of the top layer and that was what was causing the problem with the cutting of the cake.

Well done to the Walcha/Uralla Jillaroos on qualifying for the Group 19 Ladies League Tag Reserve Grade Major Semi Final after finishing in sixth position on the points score ladder due to a better points differential than Guyra who they were equal with. If everything goes to schedule the girls should play Inverell at Guyra in two Sundays time.

There are conflicting stories as to why the Walcha/Uralla Tigeroos withdrew from the Group 19 Reserve Grade semi final series, but to say at least two sponsors (one major) aren't too happy would be grossly understating the fact. Stay tuned for more developments.

Defence must have been the perimeter apparatus made of iron and wire that ran around various grounds in Group 19 last weekend. The Walcha/Uralla Tigeroos beat Armidale 62 – 0, Narwan downed Glen Innes 60 – 6, Moree Boomerangs rounded up Bingara 52 – 40, Guyra caged the Tingha Tigers 48 – 40 while Inverell defeated Wyallda 44 – 18. If my calculations are correct that's 374 points at an average of 75 points per match.

The Walcha Rams didn't help their Central North Campaign last Saturday when they went down to Quirindi 41-29 here at Peter Fenwicke Oval. The Rams currently sit sixth on 45 points behind Gunnedah and Pirates both 65, Moree 59, Quirindi 48 and Narrabri 47 but after the bye this weekend they then face co-leaders Pirates in Tamworth in the final round of the competition. Good luck boys it looks like you might need it.

Footy Tipping Big Wigs of the week: Apsley Arms – Mick O'Reilly and Scotty Swain. Bowling Club – Tommy Wicks, Ben Cross, Jason Asmus and GJ Natty. Newie – Ben Cross, Glenno Olrich and Dianne Stackman. Vets Supplies – Peter King all 14 points each. Thunderbolts Way Cafe – Paul Nash and Emily Smolders 12 each.

Happy Birthday Coog! From the team at the Telecottage.





Rugby League

Walcha/Uralla registered 96 points without conceding a single point against Armidale at Woodville Oval last Saturday when the Tigeroos and Jilaroos played their final competition games of the 2023 Group 19 Mens and Ladies Tag Rugby League.

In the main game the Tigeroos won 62-0 in a match that was called off eight minutes early due to the mercy rule introduced after a team reaches 60 points while the Jilaroos ran in eight tries, one of which was converted to defeat Armidale 34-0.

Just two minutes had elapsed when the Tigeroos opened their account through a try out wide by centre Josh Dailey and when winger Harley Carlon raised the flags with his sideline conversion attempt the homeside lead 6-0.

Further tries to fullback Shuaib Rhodes-Swain a second to Dailey, bench player Vincent Moran and halfback Kieren Stiff along with three conversions to Carlon saw the Tigeroos hold a 28-0 advantage while they enjoyed their half time oranges.

Just before the break Armidale was reduced to 12 men when their halfback Tyler Carson was sent off for punching. The procession continued in the second session with a third try to Dailey followed by touchdowns to front-rower Harley Cox, five eighth Jack Doran, lock Brody Dexter and a second to Stiff before coach Scott Swain finalised the game when he dived over wide out from dummy half.

In the second half Carlon landed three conversions whereas Stiff and Rhodes-Swain raised the flags once each. The try by prop Cox was a good individual effort where he burst through the defence 35 metres out, evaded the opposition fullback before touching down between the posts.

Although the Tigeroos qualified for the Group 19 Reserve Grade semi finals in second position behind Bingara they have surrendered that opportunity by withdrawing from the competition for a variety of reasons. Best and Fairest Points Group - 3 Harley Carlon, 2 Kieren Stiff and 1 Michael Moran. Club - 3 Kieren Stiff, 2 Harley Cox and 1 Shuaib Rhodes-Swain. Players Player - The whole team.

Final Points Score: Guyra 24, Narwan 19, Inverell 18, Moree Boomerangs 16, Bingara 15, Tigeroos 13, Glen Innes 11, Tingha 10, Warrialdia 8 and Armidale 6.

Jilaroos

The Jilaroos didn't take long to put points on the scoreboard when captain Nicola Hoy touched down and then raced over for a second try from inside her own half to give her team an 8-0 lead.

At the 20 minute mark speedster Jordy Hoy, showed her sister Nic 'anything you can do, I can do just as well' when she raced 80 metres from the restart to score a great individual try.

Goalkicker Maddie Lance piloted the conversion attempt between the posts and then just before haltime fullback Rachael Green scored to finalise the first half scoring at 18-0.

The referee had barely blown time back on to restart the game when Jojo Matapakia scored a try and then in the space of a few minutes skipper Hoy crossed for her third and fourth touchdowns.

Just before the fulltime hooter Jordy Hoy notched up her second try of the game to give the Jilaroos their 34-0 victory.

Best and Fairest Points - Group - 3 Nicola Hoy and 2 Jojo Matapakia. Club - 3 Jordy Hoy, 2 Nicola Hoy and 1 Bella Swift. Players Player - Jordy Hoy.

Final Points Score - Tingha (undefeated) 28, Warrialdia 18, Bingara, Glen Innes and Inverell all 17, Jilaroos and Guyra 14, Narwan 13, Moree 2 and Armidale 0.

As the Jilaroos finished with a better points for and against percentage differential than Guyra they will finish in sixth position which would qualify them for the Reserve Grade Major semi finals against Inverell who had the worst differential with Bingara and Glen after all three teams finished on 17 points.

There will be a bye for all clubs this weekend before the semi finals commence the following weekend.

Bowls

Dads Army: Thursday afternoon was a replica of last week, with the sun shining brightly and two easy wins.

In the first game the chook winners, Noel Goodwin and John Watts defeated John McCormack and Warwick Hogan 23-11.

The result of the second game saw a bigger margin when Eric O'Keefe and John McLean defeated Peter Hayes and Geoff Salt 27-6.

John McCormack had something to smile about when he won the raffle.

Ladies Bowls

The ladies played two games of three bowl pairs last Thursday in glorious weather. We welcomed Margaret Morris back to bowls after a long break due to a hip replacement. Jan Cross and Janice Rizzi lost to Joy McDeane and Janice Rizzi, who played in two positions. Carmel Ryan and Lyn Burnell won against Phyllis Hoy and Margaret Morris. A good game was had by all.

A reminder that the AGM will follow the general meeting on 17 August.

The District games commence soon. For those who are playing do not forget to check the board as to starting time and venue.

There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.30am for 10am.

Wednesday Golf

A par was played on Wednesday for Lyn Laurie's trophy. Donna Martin was the winner with +3 and the sweepstakes went to Jenny Lisle +1, Lyn Laurie -1 and Polly Locke -1.

Donna Martin also took out the NTP on Hole 3 and Cheryl McDonald the pin on Hole 16.

Today we are playing the first day of the 2 ball Stroke Aggregate Championships for a trophy donated by Drummond Golf.

At the Nineteenth

New club member Darren Bird streeted the field of 18 players to win a trophy donated by his cousin Dion Bird after carding a sensational score of +6 in the Par event held last Sunday which also happened to be his first competition game.

Club President Allan Green and Rose Baumer were next best on +3 while the remaining sweepstake prizes went to Michael Stackman and Lee Fletcher both +2 whereas trophy donor Dion collected the final ball on +1.

Sharpest shooter at the pins were Doug McDonald (3) and Michael Stackman (16).

Last Saturday Peter Whelan won the weekly 9 hole competition after he accumulated 19 stableford points to sneak home from runners up Col Higgins who counted out Max Holstien both on 18 points. No player was clever enough to reach the beach for the third hole N.T.P.

This Sunday a stableford round is scheduled while the Boggabri open on offer.

Great Ladies Day at the Rugby





Death Notice

CORLETTE: Irina Natasha

Passed away on 26 July 2023
at Walcha Hospital after a brief but
brutal return of her illness

80 years young

Beloved wife of Andrew. Much loved mother
and mother-in-law of Sascha & Jo,
Misha & Lizzie.

Nana Redlips to grandchildren Oscar & Lila.
Babu to grandchildren Max & Mya.

A charmer to the end and much loved
by all who knew her.

A shiny girl has gone to take her place
in the stars.

Piddington's AFDA 6772 2288

A private cremation has already been held
for Irina. She requested no funeral.
The family will arrange a celebration of her
fabulous life sometime down the track.

Funeral Notice

SCHAEFER: Gregory

Aged 64 years

Late of 'Ellandonan' Walcha.

Funeral service 11.00am 11 August
at Walcha Presbyterian Church.

Followed by a Wake at Walcha Sports Club.

WILLIAMS: Anthony Keith "Tony"

13-12-1931 – 31-7-2023

Dearly loved husband of Elizabeth.

Cherished father & father-in-law of Gabrielle
& Bill (dec'd) Thompson, Maria & Fergus
Fitzsimons, Lisa & Tony Heagney, Anthony
& Amanda, Matthew, Peter & Catherine
and loved "Tony" to his 21 grandchildren &
"Old Tony" to his 13 great-grandchildren. A
loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle to the
Williams families.

Funeral Mass to be held at St Mary &
Joseph's Cathedral on Friday 4th August
2023 commencing at 11:00am, followed by
interment at the Armidale Lawn Cemetery.

By request No Flowers, Donations in lieu
to St Vincent de Paul.

A donation box will be at the church.

The Williams family wish to advise that
Tony Williams Machinery
will be closed on Friday 4th August 2023.

Piddington's AFDA
6772 2288

Meetings

Little Athletics Committee formation
meeting, Wednesday 16 August, 6:30pm
at the Apsley Arms Hotel. Elyce Laurie
0448 165 284, Jess Williams 0418 827 088.

Walcha Garden Club AGM and monthly
meeting, Friday 4 August, Walcha Bowling
Club commencing 9:30am. Contact Di
Bazeley on 0403 464 865 or Diana Lisle
0429 779 083.

Walcha Farmers Market AGM will be held on
Tuesday 8 August at the Commercial Hotel.
New members welcomed and encouraged.
For enquiries please contact Denise Cox on
0429 692 214.

AGM Walcha Womens' Bowls at Bowling
Club. Thursday 17 August following the
general meeting which commences 1.00pm.

Walcha Basketball AGM on Monday 14
August, 6.00pm at the MPC.

Public Notices

Walcha Council **Scheduled Tree work**



Walcha Council will be
undertaking Scheduled Tree
Work from 7/8/23 to 18/8/2023 in the following
areas below:

- Meridian St – Crown lift, sucker removal
- South St – Crown lift, sucker removal, minor trim on some trees.
- Hamilton St – Crown lift, minor trim on some trees, tree pollarding on dead limb removal.
- Middle St – Sucker removal on all trees, minor crown raising and thinning.
- John Oxley Oval – several medium trees, minor crown raising.

For enquiries, please call Council on 6774 2500.

Phillip Hood, Interim General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

WALCHA GARDEN CLUB **75th Anniversary Luncheon**

Friday 1st September
Walcha Bowling Club 9:30am
Guest Speaker – Peta Trahar

Tickets: \$35 pp

- PO Box 10 Walcha
- Paperdolls
- AGM

RSVP: 23 August

Marg Cawley margcawley@gmail.com
0428 876 769

Public Notices (Cont)

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
Phone 6777 2068 0429 668 583

Barber Shop will be closed this Friday and
Saturday. Reopens Tuesday 8 Aug at 9:30am.

For Sale

DJ'S Firewood – Best wood in the district.
Bulk only – minimum 6m³, maximum 10m³.
Deliver Walcha Saturday OR pick-up from
Niangala Saturday 1.00 – 4.00pm. Phone
0427 335 631 or 6769 2395.

Jack Russell Pups: Two females, wormed,
vaccinated and microchipped. Please phone
0429 773 980 for more details.

Firewood – Top of the range dry wood in
log form. Delivered to town. Phone John on
0427 500 110.

Various Items: Bandsaw, electric chainsaw
sharpener, petrol woolpress, shearing gear,
furniture. Phone 6777 9194.

Position Vacant

Manager People **and Performance**



Walcha Council is currently
recruiting for a Manager People and
Performance to join the team. This role
will flex between operational and strategic
initiatives, it is broad in nature and provides
support across all levels of the organisation.
This position is a permanent full-time
(35 hours/week) position in Council's
organisational structure, however flexible
working arrangements for the successful
candidate will be considered. This position
falls under the Local Government (State)
Award 2023 Grade 9 – Professional/
Specialist Band 3, Level 3.

For further information and to apply, visit
Council's website.

Applications close Monday 14 August 2023.

Phillip Hood, Interim General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

church notices



ANGLICAN

Sunday 6th August 7.30am Holy Communion,
10am Family Service & 2pm Niangala
All welcome. Ph 6777 2543 or email:
walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha Sunday 9.30am.
All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC Sunday 10:00am Mass.



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WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Mon – Wed 4.00pm – Close

Thursday 3 12.00pm – Close

Ladies bowls 9.30am for 10.00am start
 Social bowls 1.00pm

Friday 4 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

- Feta and orange prawn salad.
- Lamb shanks marinated in red wine.
- Curry chicken and rice.
- Normal menu available, takeaway and delicious dessert.

6.00pm Tickets available for raffles –
 meat and veg trays

6.00pm Free Bingo

7.00pm Raffles drawn & Members Draw

Saturday 5 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

2-4pm TOSS THE BOSS

Sunday 6 11.00am – Close

12.00pm Bistro open

Children U/10 kids meal free with an
 adult order

12.00pm Meat, fruit and veg raffles

12-2pm HAPPY HOUR

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YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR
 2023/2024 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

Coming Events

Friday 18 August

Hawaiian Night

All you can eat smorgasbord,
 cocktail night and music

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Social Bowls

Available during opening hours.
 See staff regarding bowls
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